

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application in light of the amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the courtesies extended to Applicants' representative during the telephone conversation of May 30, 2006. The Examiner indicated that Applicants should resubmit the Examination Report dated January 31, 2006, Cite No. CB, listed on the Information Disclosure Statement submitted on March 31, 2006, for consideration. Applicants have resubmitted the Examination Report dated January 31, 2006 in the Information Disclosure Statement submitted herewith. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the reference and initial the enclosed PTO/SB/08 form so that the reference will be made of record.

Status of the Claims

Claims 1-8 and 10-15 are pending.

Claim 9 was previously cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein.

Claims 1, 3-4, and 13 have been amended. Support for the amendments to claims 1, 3-4, and 13 can be found in the Specification on page 5, lines 4-9 and 12-16, and in Figures 1 and 2.

Claim 5 has been amended to be in independent form.

Claims 14 and 15 have been added. Support for the new claims 14 and 15 can be found in the Specification on page 5, lines 9-14; page 7, lines 6-10; and in Figures 1 and 2.

No new matter has been added.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants appreciatively thank the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter recited in claims 2-8 and 10-12.

Applicants have amended claim 5 to be in independent form, and submit that claim 5 is in condition for allowance. As claims 6-8 and 14-15 depend from claim 5, Applicants submit that dependent claims 6-8 and 14-15 are patentable for at least the same reasons as base claim 5.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112

Claim 13 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Specifically, the Examiner contends that the phrase “. . . through a vertical plane” is unclear since it is not clear where the vertical plane is in relationship to the gears.

In the claimed invention, the gears 8, 8 are symmetric about the vertical plane, and thus, the vertical plane must be located between the two gears 8, 8. Accordingly, Applicants have amended claim 13 to recite that the intermediate gears are symmetrical to each other “about a vertical plane.”

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1 and 13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by European Patent Application No. 1,075,931 to Jurgen.

Amended independent claims 1 and 13 recite that “said drive shaft and said crankshaft rotate about a common axis.” In contrast, Jurgen neither discloses, nor suggests, this feature. Rather,

Jurgen discloses that the drive shaft 31 is in parallel with the eccentric shaft 11, and thus, Jurgen's drive shaft 31 and eccentric shaft 11 rotate on parallel axes. *See*, Jurgen, Figures 1 and 2.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that Jurgen fails to disclose each and every feature recited in claims 1 and 13. Therefore, Jurgen does not anticipate the invention recited in claims 1 and 13.

Claims 2-4 depend from claim 1. Claim 12 depends from claim 13. Applicants submit that claims 2-4 and 12 are patentable for at least the same reasons as discussed above with respect to their respective base claim.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection.

Added Claims

New claims 14 and 15 depend from claim 5. As noted above, claim 5 contains allowable subject matter, and Applicants have amended claim 5 to be in independent form. Accordingly, Applicants submit that new claims 14 and 15 are patentable for at least the same reasons as base claim 5.

